

Allies Stem German Drive: Regain Ground; American Army Starts for Battle Front

Wilson Starts Federal Meat Control Policy

It May Include Price Fixing and Operation of Packing Plants

Commission Named To Work Out Scheme

Hoover, in Urging Action, Says Present Situation Is Intolerable

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Determination of a national policy governing meat production, sale and distribution during the war, which may include virtual price fixing and definite control or actual Federal operation of the big packing houses, has been entrusted by President Wilson to a special commission of five prominent government officials.

This step, announced to-night, was taken at the recommendation of Food Administrator Hoover, who advised the President that he found himself powerless to protect properly all branches of the cattle industry, and that the government's present course is "almost intolerable in criticism from both producer and consumer." Mr. Hoover asked that the President extend to meat the policy initiated in steel, copper and other commodities which are sold at prices fixed on the basis of conferences between producers and the government.

Commission to Determine Policy

The Food Administrator suggested and President Wilson now has approved the plan, that a national policy be determined by the following officers, acting personally or through authorized delegates: The Secretary of Agriculture, representing the viewpoint of the producer; the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, representing the influence of trade conditions; the chairman of the United States Tariff Board, representing economic thought; the Secretary of Labor, representing the viewpoint of the civilian consumer, and the Food Administrator, who has to carry out any policy adopted.

Mr. Hoover submitted his proposal to the President in a letter outlining at length the trials of his organization in seeking to stimulate production and at the same time to prevent the robbery of the average citizen by profiteering. He declared some change in the government's present course was necessary for the protection of the producer and civilian consumer and to insure the increased production required to meet the growing needs of the army and the Allies.

May Take Over Plants

"This change in policy may take the form of more definite and systematic direction of the large packers as to the course they are to pursue from month to month," wrote the administrator, "or may even take the form of operation of the packing establishments by the government."

Since the United States entered the war, Allied purchases of meat for both civilian and military purposes have been consolidated, and it is becoming necessary for the government to coordinate them with orders for the American army and navy to prevent conflict in execution. The result, Mr. Hoover said, is practical domination of prices, which was recognized in pork last September by rough assurance to swine producers of a minimum of 15¢ per pound for their product. Present indications are that beef purchases will be increased soon to the point where they may affect prices materially.

Seeks to Keep Prices Down

Pointing out that increased quantities needed for export must be obtained either by greater production or by reduction in civilian consumption, and probably by both, Mr. Hoover expressed the opinion that reduced consumption could be had most equitably by voluntary sacrifice and moderate restraints such as meatless days, and emphatically disapproved any attempt to lessen consumption by increasing prices to the public. "Conservation, as obtained by the elimination of that section of the community with the least purchasing power," he wrote the President. "In other words, conservation by prices becomes conservation for the rich and not for the poor, whereas an extension of the conservation policy now in force places the burden on those who can save from plenty, not upon those who are from want."

"It appears to me also of the utmost national importance that we shall maintain through the country a complete and voluntary reduction in the consumption of all commodities if we are to provide the necessary surpluses, either in money, man power or material, necessary to winning the war."

recognizing fully the well founded objection to any theory of price-fixing, (which in a given commodity have reached such a volume that the purchase of these commodities affect the domestic consumption the operation of this purchasing power becomes a consideration of last importance.)

Paris Church Horror Likened To Lusitania

Correspondent Tells of Scene in Paris Edifice Hit by 75-Mile Gun

By Wilbur Forrest

(Tribune Cable Service)

PARIS, March 31.—Through the courtesy of the French government I have just stood in the interior of what was only Friday one of the most highly prized mediæval churches in Paris. To-day it is a wrecked charnel house.

The gruesome story of this church should go around the world, for though seventy-seven bodies already have been removed, tons of white stone heaped upon the floor of the Gothic nave are probably serving as the sepulchre of others who were worshipping Christ on the day of the Crucifixion. Bloodstains on the white stone floor tell the story of the victims of the most outright German murder since the sinking of the Lusitania.

During my visit the skies were weeping copiously through the gaping hole where the shell entered. Holy water vessels had been drained to the last drop by fragments as though by design, and the pipes of the great organ to the rear of the nave, one of the finest in Paris, were almost irreparably smashed by flying debris.

I saw three corpses filled with bodies in Queenstown, Ireland, after the Lusitania sinking, but the piles of crushed furs, hats of women and children, broken pieces of side-combs and other bits of trinkets littering the blood-stained floor of this church made a far greater impression.

There was one other American inside the church. He was a soldier who had been passed through the lines by German soldiers because of his uniform. He stooped, put his hand into one of these bloody patches on the floor and extricated a blood-soaked sandstone. Wrapping it in a tattered paper, he declared:

"I'm going to take this souvenir back to the boys of my regiment so they'll know about it, too."

Broken chairs littering the interior of the church also told the story of the hundreds kneeling when the shell suddenly shattered one of the huge Gothic pillars rising to the top of the nave, bringing down the pillar and a huge portion of the dome on the praying women and children.

It was plain slaughter, none under the great mass of huge blocks of stone being able to escape. To-day workmen are busily laboring under the mass of other tons of unfallen stone. Outside in neighboring streets crowds of busy pedestrians are moving normally, streetcars are clanging and taxis honking, as if the tragedy had not occurred a few hours before.

The Romanesque facade facing the street does not tell the story.

Germans Again Bombard Paris At Long Range

PARIS, March 31.—The bombardment of Paris by long-range German guns was resumed at 2:15 p. m. to-day.

At the services this morning the churches were even more crowded than is usual on Easter Sunday.

An official note issued to-night says: "The German long-range cannon continued during the day to bombard the Paris district. One person was killed and one injured."

No unexploded shell from a gun-bombardment of Paris has thus far been found. However, there have been examined in the municipal laboratory fragments of sufficient size to permit the directors to reach certain conclusions. They are of the opinion that a double fuse is used, and that the guns fire 210-millimetre (8½-inch) shells.

German Explains the New Long-Range Gun

GENEVA, Switzerland, March 30.—Lieutenant-General von Rohne, a German authority on ordnance and inspector of artillery, gives in a magazine of which he is editor additional details in regard to the long-distance German gun which is being used in the Paris district. He says they are 20 metres (65½ feet) long. The empty shell weighs 150 kilograms (330 pounds), and the charge weighs the same. The projectile attains a height of 30 kilometres (18½ miles) and descends from the sky like a meteor on its target.

General von Rohne says it requires about three minutes for the shell to reach its destination. The greatest difficulty in the way of increasing the range was overcome by sending the projectile high enough to reach the rarified air.

It appears the Germans are extremely proud of the bombardment of Paris.

Big Ship Strike Voted 6,000 Men on U. S. Work May Quit To-day

NORFOLK, Va., March 31.—Carpenters and joiners employed at the Hampton Roads naval base, the Pig Point ordnance depot and the Bush Bluff army depot voted at a meeting to-day to strike to-morrow unless their demands for higher wages and an eight-hour day are granted by the government.

Union leaders said between 5,000 and 6,000 men would go out.

U. S. Troops Under Foch's Orders

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 31.—The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer of all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command, so far as the French army and American forces are concerned. This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Austro-Bulgar Force in West, Paris Affirms

Official Report Confirms Statements from German Sources

PARIS, March 31.—Official announcement was made to-day that the presence on the Franco-British front of Bulgarian and Austrian troops had been established.

The French announcement confirms statements to this effect from German sources. According to some accounts, the trip of the German Emperor last October to Vienna, Sofia and Constantinople was primarily for the purpose of inducing his allies to send all the forces they could muster to the Western front for the spring offensive.

A recent press dispatch from Amsterdam said the Austro-Hungarian Emperor had reviewed his troops in Flanders. It has been understood, however, that only a comparatively small force of Austrians and Hungarians would be employed on the Western front and that the bulk of those not engaged against Italy would be used to relieve Germany in policing the Russian front.

Some authorities have placed the number of Austro-Hungarians on the West front at 250,000. The number of Bulgarians cannot be so great. Berlin announced that Bulgar troops were held in the West as a strategic reserve.

State Department Waits For Official Confirmation

WASHINGTON, March 31.—What action Congress will take following the announcement that Bulgarian troops have made their appearance on the Western battlefield is awaited with great interest.

At the State Department it was said to-night that the question had not yet been considered because no official confirmation had been received. More than a week ago there was a report that Bulgarians were fighting in France, but it was not verified, and was doubtless due to the German announcement that Bulgar troops were held as a reserve in the West.

It is believed here that there is little probability of definite action by the Administration unless information is received that the Bulgarian and American troops are opposing each other.

Warns Public of Glass in Flour

Food Board Asks Housewives and Bakers to Exercise Great Care

The Federal Food Board issued a warning to housewives and bakers yesterday announcing that jagged bits of glass had been discovered in flour and breadstuffs throughout the city, and urging those handling these materials to exercise the utmost caution.

"Housewives," the warning says, "should examine bread after it has been cut and made ready for the table. Where bread is baked in the home the flour should be thoroughly sifted for foreign substances. Owners of bakeries and those handling flour and substitutes used in baking are asked to have rigid inspection made before these commodities leave shipping rooms."

The board then explains that, although it dislikes to alarm the public, complaints have become so frequent that it is necessary to put people on their guard at once.

Battle Slackening; Enemy Digging In

Situation Most Satisfactory, According to News From the Front

PARIS, March 31.—The battle is slackening, according to news reaching Paris late to-night. The attacks of the Germans have been less violent and less numerous to-day, and it has been observed that the enemy is feverishly digging himself in, particularly in the neighborhood of Lassigny.

The general impression is that the situation is most satisfactory.

Pershing Has 100,000 Men Free for Drive

United States Forces Are All Turned Over to the Allies

Great Activity in American Zone

Troops in Lines Miles Long Plod Over Muddy Roads

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 31.—All the American troops have been turned over to the Allies for such use as they see fit to make of them. American troops may soon be fighting side by side with their British and French Allies in the battle which is raging in northern France.

It is enough to say that great activity of many kinds is in progress in the entire American zone. Miles of motor trucks loaded with American troops have passed through the towns, some going in one direction, some in another. Through a driving rain the motor trucks ploughed their way along muddy roads, the Americans singing. Many of the trucks had American flags fastened to their tailboards.

On other roads mile after mile of marching Americans splashed through the mud which came over their ankles. The horses were steaming from the work they had to do.

All the men are working as hard as possible, with the realization that they are to be of service in the common cause and used in the present conflict.

Great Activity Evident

Great activity continued Sunday throughout the zone where the American troops are quartered. It began at 4 o'clock this morning, when heavily loaded motor caissons began rumbling through the streets and over the roads, which by noon were crowded with caissons, both motor and horse-drawn, marching men, horses and artillery.

As on Saturday, some parties were going in one direction and some in another. The Americans passing were cheered by others who stood along the roads watching the virtually endless processions, some of which were miles long.

Out on the open roads, the men in the caissons sang everything from "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" to "Tipperary." They exhibited the greatest enthusiasm for the work they have in hand, and seemed to be anxious to get it started.

Frequently during the day heavy motor trucks skidded from the muddy roads into ditches, but they were quickly literally picked up by as many Americans as could get a hand on them and set back on the road and started again toward their destination. A little thing like lifting the end of a five-ton motor truck from a ditch means nothing to Americans who are in a hurry to get into the fight.

News That Troops Move to Battle Thrills Capital

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Washington was thrilled to-day by the news that American soldiers actually are on their way to the fighting lines to take places beside their hard pressed British and French allies.

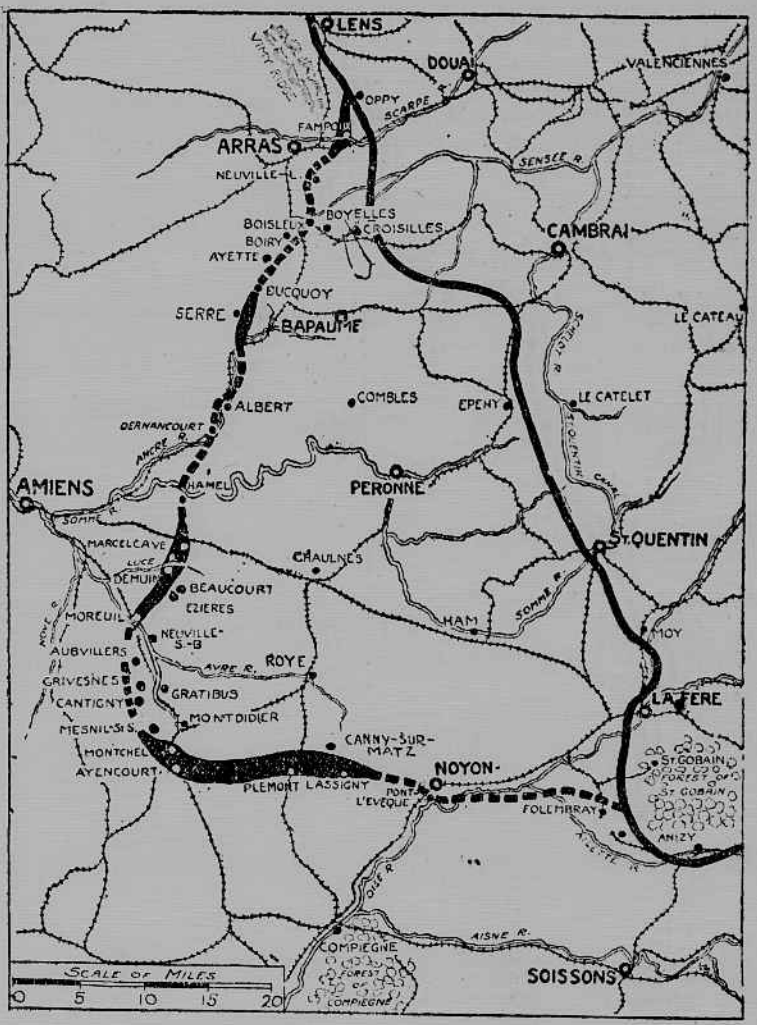
The Americans previously referred to in the official dispatches as being in the fighting are believed now to have been engineers or other auxiliary troops, which probably were caught at their work, as they were a few months ago at Cambrai.

Major General March, acting Chief of Staff, said to-night the War Department had not been advised that Pershing's fighting men were moving to places in the British-French line. But the news has been expected ever since the creation of a unified command under the French Chief of Staff, General Foch, and General Pershing's formal offer of all the available American resources.

Too much may not be said about the number and position of the American troops, because of military reasons. It is no violation of the censorship, however.

Continued on Next Page

THE HALTED GERMAN BATTLE LINE



The solid black sections of the map show where the Allies are counter attacking and the ground regained thus far. East of Arras the British recaptured Fayeux and made progress in the region of Serre, seven miles north of Albert. South of the Somme the British have reestablished their positions in the Luce Valley, directly southeast of Amiens. From here southward the British and French are nibbling into the German line. The French have retaken Moreuil, Monchel, Ayencourt and other hamlets as far east as Lassigny.

The Official Statements

LONDON, March 31.—The British War Office to-day issued the following statements.

NIGHT.—North of the Somme the day has been quiet. Immediately south of the Scarpe our line has been advanced to the east of Feuchy (east of Arras). It has been confirmed that the enemy's losses in his fruitless attacks were heavy.

South of the Somme yesterday by successful counter attacks we regained possession of the village of Demuin. In brilliant operations yesterday by the Canadian cavalry and British infantry, in conjunction with the French, we recaptured Moreuil and the wood to the north of that place.

This afternoon a heavy German attack developed in the angle between the Rivers Luce and Avre, and the fighting continued. South of Moreuil the Germans are attacking in direction of Mailly and Rameval.

This morning the French had made some progress from the south of Montdidier to Lassigny, retaking several villages which they lost yesterday.

EVENING.—North of the Somme the enemy did not renew his attacks to-day. Some heavy hostile shelling, however, has taken place on different parts of this front. We secured a few prisoners and machine guns in local fighting. South of the Somme a hostile attack developed in considerable force about Middy south of the main Peronne-Amiens road. Fighting is continuing in and between the valleys of the Luce and the Avre, where possession of tactical features, woods and villages is at present being contested.

DAY.—South of the Somme our line in the Luce Valley was restored yesterday, after a vigorously executed counter attack. Two strong attacks made by the enemy in the course of the day against our front from Marcelcave to the Somme were repulsed in each case with heavy loss to his troops. In his attacks delivered yesterday immediately north of the Somme the enemy's infantry advanced to the assault in four waves and were repulsed at all points by our outpost line. The enemy's casualties on this portion of the battlefield alone are estimated in the thousands.

Early yesterday afternoon a successful local operation was carried out by us in the neighborhood of Serre. Our line in this locality was advanced a short distance, and 230 prisoners and forty machine guns were captured by us.

Our line also was carried forward slightly on other parts of the battlefield, and prisoners were taken. Hostile artillery was active early yesterday evening in the neighborhood of Buquoy.

PARIS, March 31.—The French War Office to-day issued the following statements:

NIGHT.—The Germans, exhausted by their sanguinary check of yesterday, made violent local attacks to-day at certain points on the front.

North of Moreuil the enemy gained no success except in the region of Hargand on Sarterre, where, after stubborn fighting, he succeeded in gaining a foothold in that village.

Between Moreuil and Lassigny our troops, according to the latest information, recaptured Ayencourt and Monchel last evening, taking about 100 prisoners and fourteen machine guns. To-day, in the course of spirited engagements, they made a notable advance in the region of Orville. On the Oise front enemy detachments, consisting of a battalion of storming troops, after having crossed the river near Chauny, attempted to establish a bridgehead on the left bank. In a vigorous counter attack this battalion was completely annihilated or taken prisoner. The number of unwounded Germans remaining in our hands exceeded one hundred.

Our long range guns caught under their fire and destroyed an enemy train of heavy artillery in the region of Laon.

DAY.—The struggle was continued with undiminished violence during the night, and the result was to emphasize the check administered to the formidable German effort of yesterday to break through the line. Between Montdidier and Moreuil the fire of the French infantry mowed down German battalions, which renewed the assault without ceasing. Moreuil, captured by the Germans, was retaken by the French, again taken by the Germans and finally carried in a bayonet charge made with incomparable bravery by French and British troops mingled in the same ranks. The woods north of Moreuil also were captured as the result of valiant fighting. In this region the French took many prisoners.

Between Moreuil and Lassigny the checking of the Germans, it has been established, was complete. The French were able to make progress as far as the vicinity of Canny-sur-Matz.

The division of picked troops which, as announced last night, recaptured Plesmont and held it against all attacks, took 700 prisoners.

On the remainder of the front there was intermittent cannonading.

Continued on Next Page

French Hurl Foe Back on 38-Mile Line; Take Moreuil

Village Lost and Won Four Times in 48-Hour Fight; Finally Held by Petain

Enemy Give Way Before

Hindenburg Believed Bringing Up Great Reinforcements for New Thrust

The German drive in Picardy has not only been stemmed, but the invaders have lost ground in the north, the centre (toward Amiens) and the south.

It is believed that Hindenburg is bringing up his heavy artillery and great reinforcements to renew the offensive.

The French government has officially accepted General Pershing's proffer of the American army. In consequence activity in all branches of the American expeditionary forces suggest that these are soon to be thrown into the great battle, and are already on their way.

Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian troops have been identified on the Franco-British front.

In the south the enemy has fared worst. After forty-eight hours of ferocious fighting the Germans, attacking on the thirty-eight-mile front between Moreuil and Lassigny, have been thrown back with unprecedented losses.

France-British forces have recaptured Moreuil and the wooded ground to the north. The village changed hands four times before the Germans were overpowered. At the tip of the German salient Monchel and Ayencourt are once more in French hands and Petain's men have retaken a considerable stretch of territory from the enemy as far east as Lassigny, securing a number of villages at the bayonet's point.

At Lassigny the Germans are reported digging themselves in.

In the centre the British have re-established their positions in the Luce valley, reconquering the village of Demuin, lost yesterday. Heavy fighting is still going on between the Luce and the Avre.

North of the Somme German attacks have practically ceased, presumably because of the toll of life exacted by the British guns. Haig's men have made some progress in the region of Serre, seven miles north of Albert, and have recaptured Feuchy, directly east of Arras.

Both the French and British are taking prisoners. More than a thousand Germans were made captive yesterday, with many machine guns.

Berlin admits no setback, but reports local successes between the Luce and the Avre.

A German attempt to cross the Oise near Chauny ended disastrously. The entire battalion was either killed or captured.

To-day is the day Hindenburg predicted that he would dine on truffles in Paris.

Germans' Gigantic Effort to Capture Amiens a Failure

By Wilbur Forrest

(The Tribune Cable Service)

PARIS, March 31.—The outstanding feature of the great battle now raging over a front of one hundred miles to-day is the complete failure of the enemy's gigantic attempt to encircle Amiens.

The French and the British, fight-

Continued on Next Page